

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
NOV 03 2006

Szmanda et al.
U.S.S.N. 10/674,617
Page 6

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claim 23 would be allowable if written in independent form.

By amendments made herein, the two pending independent claims – claims 1 and 25 – recite subject matter of that allowed claim 23.

Claim 1 has been amended, claim 23 cancelled without prejudice, and claim 25 has been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears e.g. in the original claims of the application.

It is believed the amendment of claim 1 herein obviates the formality objection of that claim as noted at page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent 6423412) in view of Chung et al. (U.S. Patent 6355749).

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 21, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent 6423412) in view of Asakawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6686211).

For the sake of brevity, the two rejections are addressed in combination.

While Applicants disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the rejections have been obviated. As discussed above, the two pending independent claims – claims 1 and 25 – recite subject matter of allowed claim 23.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

Szmanda et al.
U.S.S.N. 10/674,617
Page 7

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. 33,860)
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 439-4444